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11 SEP 1978

25X1

INFORMATION REPORT

25X1
REPORT NO.

CD NO.

25X1

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT Proposed Production of Full-Track
Vehicles for the HVA

DATE OF INFO.

25X1

PLACE
ACQUIRED

25X1

DATE DISTR. 19 March 1952

NO. OF PAGES 1

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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SOURCE

1. On 3 January 1952, a conference was held at the BfW, at which Major General Makarov of the Soviet Control Commission (SCC), Raeschler, chief of HA.II of the BfW, and a number of other officials were present. Makarov raised the question of the production of the full-track vehicle KS.120, which, he said, was a priority target for DDR industry. He instructed the chief of the HA.II to have a report prepared showing how far three trial vehicles, which were being produced at Schoenebeck, had progressed.
2. In a conversation which subsequently took place between Lang, Inu, chief of HA vehicle construction, Ministry for Vehicle Construction and officials of the BfW, Lang revealed that after tests had been carried out by the HVA on the trial vehicles, 300 vehicles would be produced by the end of 1952. As Schoenebeck, Gotha and Zwickau had been rejected as unsuitable, production would be carried out at Bautzen.
3. Shortly afterwards, the report required by Makarov on the subject of the KS.120 (see paragraph 1 above) was prepared. It revealed that the first specimen vehicle would be ready by the end of February 1952, the second by the end of March, and the third by the end of April. The first would be equipped with a rubber track, the second with an all-steel one, and the third with a combined steel and rubber one. Tests had suggested that the third track would probably prove to be the most suitable.
4. Notice was given to the BfW that in January 1952 a conference would take place between Heinrich Rau (State Planning Commission), Willi Stoph, chief of the BfW, and probably Hermann Ziller, Minister for Vehicle Construction, to discuss the question of fitting the production of the KS.120 into the DDR industrial program for 1952.
5. [redacted] half a million DM Ost were approved by the SCC for research into the production of the full-track KS.120 in the year 1951-52.

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